

April 18, 2009

**OBEY IN STEVENS POINT TO HELP HONOR MARTIN HANSON'S INDUCTION  
INTO THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME**

STEVENS POINT, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Stevens Point today to help honor the late Martin Hanson, one of three being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Hanson, who died recently, was a long-time resident of Mellon, WI, a close confidant of U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, and a driving force behind many conservation efforts in Northern Wisconsin for a generation.

"Martin Hansen is being honored today because he was one of the great hunters of the world; because he helped to establish Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Act Program; because he led the effort to reintroduce elk in Wisconsin; because he led the way in establishing the Whittlesey Creek wildlife refuge; and because he was the driving force behind the establishment of the Apostle Island National Lake Shore," Obey told the crowd gathered at the Sentry Theater for the ceremonies. "All of those achievements were important, but what was really important about Martin Hanson was the whole thrust of his life! He knew the science behind every conservation issue he championed. He knew how to help people on all sides of controversial issues find common ground. But most of all, he earned the respect of everyone who knew him because he conveyed a fierce dedication to the public interest and ethical concern about our national blessings just as Aldo Leopold and Sigurd Olson did many years earlier."

Located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization composed of 24 Wisconsin conservation-related organizations. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established to encourage the growth and practice of a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the state.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame have significantly contributed to conservation programs, projects, public understanding, and conservation ethics within the state of Wisconsin and the nation. In addition to Hanson, Herb Behnke of Shawano and Charles Stoddard of Minong are this year's inductees. More information on the Hall of Fame and all of its members can be found in its web site at: [www.wchf.org](http://www.wchf.org)

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